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Annotated List of Allamakee County Foray Birds

DARWIN KOENIG

DECORAH

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the foray is to gather data on various biological phenomena within a prescribed area. The following annotated list of birds summarizes the ornithological data collected within Allamakee County during June, 1978. It will be noted that some of the species included in the annotated list were not observed during the foray period, however, they have been observed in or near the county during the breeding season in other years.

Some baseline information on the birds of Allamakee County exists in the form of an annotated list compiled by Paul Bartsch while on a canoe trip on the Upper Iowa River during June-July, 1895 (*Iowa Ornithologist* 3:51-61). For the most part, however, little quantitative ornithological field study has been conducted in this part of the state during the breeding season.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Nine breeding bird surveys were conducted within the county. Each route was 25 miles long and was patterned after those conducted by the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. Three singing male counts were conducted on plots within the Yellow River State Forest.

3. Independent observations during the foray period by Jim Bednarz, Alan Branham, Larry Farmer, Darwin Koenig, Rick Lampe, Fred Leshner, Dean Roosa, and Joe Schaufenbuel.

4. Information from the literature.

TERMS OF OCCURRENCE

Relative abundance is described in a comparative manner as indicated by the data from the breeding bird routes, plot censuses and my own observations in the county in past years. Unless otherwise noted, all species listed are presumed to breed within the county although direct evidence (eggs or young) is lacking for some species.

The numbers in parentheses following a species name refer to the number of breeding bird routes (9 possible) on which the species was observed and the total number of individuals of that species counted on the routes.

The species which were found by Bartsch (1895) and included on his list are marked by an asterisk.

ABBREVIATIONS USED

AB -- Alan Branham
DK -- Darwin Koenig
IBL -- Iowa Bird Life
JS -- Joe Schaufenbuel

LBL -- Lansing Big Lake
L&D -- Lock and Dam
YRF -- Yellow River State Forest

ANNOTATED LIST

Pied-billed Grebe (1,1). Uncommon breeding bird. Two were found on LBL on June 21 by DK and JS.

* **Great Blue Heron** (8,50). Common breeding bird. Found along most of the waterways in the county.

* **Green Heron** (1,1). Common breeding bird.

Cattle Egret. Two were found north of Harper's Ferry by JS on June 7. This species has not been reported as nesting in Iowa and these were probably transient.

Great Egret (3,10). Uncommon breeding bird. Found along the Mississippi and lower Upper Iowa Rivers.

Black-crowned Night Heron. Rare breeding bird. One was observed on LBL by DK and JS on June 21.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Rare breeding bird. Found at Kains Siding by Jim Bednarz during the foray. Three individuals were found in the same area during the summer of 1977. Brown (1971) reports it as having nested in Clayton County in 1960. Gromme (1964) terms it a rare summer resident in Wisconsin and Green and Janssen (1975) list it as being a summer resident in Houston and Dakota Counties, Minnesota.

Least Bittern. Rare breeding bird. Two were found on LBL by DK and JS on June 21.

* **American Bittern**. Not found on the foray. Rare breeding bird. Bartsch (1895) found a large number of these birds near the mouth of the Upper Iowa River, but they have decreased since, probably due to habitat destruction.

* **Wood Duck**. (1, 2). Common breeding bird.

Blue-winged Teal. Rare breeding bird. A few are found on the farm ponds and marshes along the Mississippi River.

Mallard (4,7). Fairly common breeding bird. Regularly found on the streams and farm ponds in the county.

Ring-necked Duck. A single male was observed on LBL by DK and JS on June 21. Non-breeding.

* **Hooded Merganser**. Uncommon breeding bird. Five were observed on the New Albin Wildlife Area on June 1; 1 south of New Albin on June 8; 2 at Kains Siding on June 8; 3 in YRF on June 5, and a female with 5 young south of New Albin on June 20. A female and 4 young were observed in YRF on June 11, 1977 (IBL 47:100).

* **Turkey Vulture** (2,3). Common breeding bird. A nest with 2 young was found by Dean Roosa on June 8 along the Upper Iowa River.

* **Bald Eagle**. One was reported from YRF by Dennis Dunlap on June 1. Bald Eagles nested in Allamakee County at one time, but probably not in this century (see IBL 7:18-19).

* **Sharp-shinned Hawk**. Not found on the foray. Bartsch (1895) thought it was common and found nests with young. It probably still nests in the county, but there are no recent summer records. Gromme (1964) lists it as an uncommon summer resident in Wisconsin. Green and Janssen (1975) list southeast Minnesota as one of the areas in the state where it is most numerous during the summer.

* **Cooper's Hawk**. Rare breeding bird. One was seen by several observers in YRF on June 4 and 1, was observed near New Albin on June 20 by DK and JS. Recently fledged young were reported from YRF in July, 1977 (IBL 47:100).

* **Red-tailed Hawk** (9,21). Common breeding bird. The current mix of woodland and farmland found throughout much of the county is near ideal for the red-tail, but will undoubtedly deteriorate with the increased clearing of the woodlands.

* **Red-shouldered Hawk**. Rare breeding bird. Three nests were found in the county by Jim Bednarz.

* **Broad-winged Hawk**. Uncommon breeding bird. Four were regularly sighted in YRF during the foray, 1 near Waukon Jct. on June 8, and 2 near Lansing on June 21. A nest was reported in YRF by Steve Duecker in 1976 (Dean Roosa, in prep).

* **Peregrine Falcon**. Not found on the foray. It may have nested in the county as recently as 1967 (Dean Roosa, in prep), but not at present.

* **American Kestrel** (2,4). Uncommon breeding bird. One was observed near YRF on June 2 and another near Waukon on June 4.

* **Ruffed Grouse** (3,4). Common breeding bird.

* **Common Bobwhite** (2,4). Rare breeding bird. They were fairly common in the county as recently as 20 years ago; now rarely found.

Ring-necked Pheasant (8,74). Common breeding bird, perhaps increasing with the continued land clearing.

* **Wild Turkey** (3,10). Uncommon breeding bird. Reintroduced in 1960 and expanding in numbers and range.

Common Gallinule. Rare breeding bird. Twelve adults and 8 downy young were observed on LBL by DK and JS on June 21.

American Coot. Fairly common breeding bird along the Mississippi River.

* **Killdeer** (7,44). Common breeding bird.

Upland Sandpiper. Not found on the foray. Rare breeding bird. Ellison Orr (IBL 13:39-40) described some early nestings.

* **Spotted Sandpiper**. Fairly common breeding bird along the streams.

* **American Woodcock**. Fairly common breeding bird. Some nesting records are given in IBL 46:75-79.

Semipalmated Sandpiper. Thirty-eight were observed south of New Albin by JS on June 1 and 1 was still present on June 8. These were migrants.

Common Tern. One was observed at L&D No. 9 by JS on June 1; probably a migrant. One was observed south of Harper's Ferry on July 11 and 12, 1972 (IBL 42:70).

Black Tern. Two were observed at L&D No. 9 on June 1 and 5 north of Marquette on June 7. Probably does not breed in Allamakee County due to lack of proper habitat.

Rock Dove (8,129). Common breeding bird.

* **Mourning Dove** (9,238). Common breeding bird.

* **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (9,28). Common breeding bird.

Black-billed Cuckoo (6,17). Fairly common breeding bird.

* **Common Screech Owl**. Fairly common breeding bird.

* **Great Horned Owl** (2,2). Common breeding bird.

* **Barred Owl** (2,2). Common breeding bird.

Long-eared Owl. A young of this species was found dead in a pine plantation by Rick Lampe on June 4. Concentrated field work in early spring would probably show this species to breed regularly in the county.

* **Whip-poor-will** (2,3). Fairly common in the woodlands.

* **Common Nighthawk**. Common breeding bird in the towns, rarely seen in the country.

* **Chimney Swift** (9,32). Common breeding bird.

* **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** (1,1). Fairly common breeding bird.

* **Belted Kingfisher** (5,16). Common breeding bird.

* **Common Flicker** (9,65). Common breeding bird.

Pileated Woodpecker (6,20). Fairly common breeding bird. Somewhat surprisingly, it was not mentioned by Bartsch (1895). Its population was apparently very low in the state at the turn of the century (see Anderson, 1907).

* **Red-bellied Woodpecker** (9,84). Common breeding bird. This species has apparently increased as Bartsch (1895) considered it uncommon.

* **Red-headed Woodpecker** (9,149). Common breeding bird.

* **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. Uncommon locally in woodlands along the Mississippi, Yellow, and Upper Iowa Rivers. Nests were found in 1975 (IBL 46:19) and 1977 (IBL 47:101).

* **Hairy Woodpecker** (5,16). Common breeding bird.

* **Downy Woodpecker** (5,10). Common breeding bird.

* **Eastern Kingbird** (9,53). Common breeding bird.

Western Kingbird. Not found on the foray. A July 16, 1935 record for Waukon Jct. is given in IBL 6:5. It does not breed in the county.

* **Great Crested Flycatcher** (9,75). Common breeding bird.

* **Eastern Phoebe** (6,21). Fairly common breeding bird.

* **Acadian Flycatcher** (2,4). Locally common, especially in YRF. Three nests were located along the Yellow River.

Willow Flycatcher (7,26). Fairly common breeding bird.

Alder Flycatcher (2,2). Probably a rare breeding bird. Much fieldwork remains to be done in regards to the breeding status of the Alder and Willow Flycatchers in Iowa. Joe Schaufenbuel and I found 4 singing male Alder Flycatchers in Fayette County on July 6, but no conclusive evidence of breeding.

* **Least Flycatcher** (1,1). Rare breeding bird. Three were observed daily in YRF and 1 at Kains Siding on June 7. It has apparently decreased in numbers at Bartsch (1895) found it breeding abundantly around Decorah, Winneshiek County and elsewhere along the Upper Iowa River.

* **Eastern Pewee** (9,92). Common breeding bird.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (1,1). One was observed in YRF by AB, DK, and JS on June 6 in addition to the one on a breeding bird count. These were probably migrants. I observed a singing Olive-sided Flycatcher on July 4, 1962 in northern Clayton County.

* **Horned Lark** (8,52). Common breeding bird.

* **Tree Swallow** (1,4). Common breeding bird.

* **Bank Swallow** (3,12). Common breeding bird. A colony of about 40 pairs was located in a gravel pile north of Harper's Ferry.

* **Rough-winged Swallow** (8,86). Common breeding bird. Bartsch (1895) considered it the rarest of the swallows. It has apparently increased since his observation was made.

* **Barn Swallow** (9,159). Common breeding bird.

* **Cliff Swallow** (2,26). Commonly nests under bridges and on the exposed cliffs of the Upper Iowa River and tributaries.

* **Purple Martin** (2,6). Apparently restricted to areas where houses are provided, but common in such areas.

* **Blue Jay** (9,157). Common breeding bird.

* **American Crow** (9,365). Common breeding bird.

* **Black-capped Chickadee** (9,37). Common breeding bird.

Tufted Titmouse (7,47). Fairly common breeding bird. It was not observed by Bartsch (1895) and has apparently increased its range northward since his journey (see IBL 29:27).

* **White-breasted Nuthatch** (9,36). Common breeding bird.

Brown Creeper. Probably the best birding find of the foray, although not unexpected, was the discovery of breeding Brown Creepers in the Mississippi River floodplain forests. A nest with 1 young and 3 other young was found near New Albin by AB and JS on June 4. On the same date 3 adults and two fledged young were seen near Waukon Jct. by the same observers. Two adults were at Kains Siding on June 8. Bartsch (1895) evidently overlooked the creeper as it was not included on his list. Art Palas speculated that they could be found nesting in this part of the state (IBL 8:36).

* **House Wren** (9,222). Common breeding bird.

Winter Wren. Not found on the foray. A singing Winter Wren was observed in

YRF in June, 1975 and 1976 (IBL 46:84). An apparent nesting attempt in 1975 is described in IBL 46:19.

Carolina Wren. Rare breeding bird. One observed 1 near Waukon Jct. on June 19 and 1 was heard in YRF by Fred Lesh. Oscar Allert described a nesting near Waukon Jct. (IBL 4:34).

* **Marsh Wren.** Fairly common breeding bird in the cattail areas fringing the Mississippi River.

Sedge Wren (4,6). Uncommon breeding bird in moist grassy areas.

Northern Mockingbird. Not found on the foray. The only records of the mockingbird in the county are June 1, 1942 and 1944 (IBL 16:23). There are no records of its nesting in the county. Ruth Sumy lists the mockingbird as having nested in Winneshiek County in 1965 (IBL 37:16).

* **Gray Catbird** (9,171). Common breeding bird.

* **Brown Thrasher** (9,136). Common breeding bird.

* **American Robin** (9,209). Common breeding bird.

* **Wood Thrush** (3,8). Fairly common breeding bird. Down in numbers this year.

* **Veery** (2,2). Rare breeding bird. Bartsch (1895) found it nesting in the county. A nest with eggs was found in Fayette County in 1977 (IBL 47:102).

* **Eastern Bluebird** (4,5). Uncommon breeding bird.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (9,25). Fairly common breeding bird. It has apparently expanded its range northward since 1895 as it was not found by Bartsch (1895).

* **Cedar Waxwing** (3,13). Fairly common, but erratic breeding bird. A nest under construction was observed by DK in YRF on June 19.

* **Loggerhead Shrike** (1,1). Rare breeding bird. A nest with 2 young was found by JS and AB on June 3. It probably has never been very numerous in the area as Bartsch (1895) found it to be uncommon.

European Starling (9,550). Common breeding bird. First reported in the county on May 16, 1933 (IBL 15:31).

Bell's Vireo (1,1). Rare breeding bird.

* **Yellow-throated Vireo** (8,32). Fairly common breeding bird, not as numerous as either the Red-eyed or Warbling Vireos.

* **Red-eyed Vireo** (7,19). Common breeding bird, but down in numbers this year.

* **Warbling Vireo** (8,36). Common breeding bird.

* **Black-and-white Warbler.** Not found on the foray. Bartsch (1895) found it to be common and collected both young and adults. It may still nest in the county as there seems to be adequate habitat, but the only recent summer records are June 18 and July 29, 1977 in YRF by DK.

Prothonotary Warbler. Common breeding bird in the Mississippi River backwater areas. Thirty-three were observed in the LBL area on June 21 by DK and JS. This species was not mentioned by Bartsch (1895) and probably moved northward into this area subsequent to his journey (see IBL 29:28).

* **Golden-winged Warbler.** Not found on the foray. Bartsch (1895) found a singing male in Winneshiek County. Two individuals found on July 29, 1977 (IBL 47:103) were probably migrants, however, it may be expanding its breeding range southward (see *American Birds* 32:1170).

* **Blue-winged Warbler** (5,16). Locally fairly common, especially in YRF where 16 were recorded on June 2 by AB and JS. A nest with young was found by JS near New Albin on June 1. Another nest was found in YRF in 1975 (IBL 46:84).

* **Yellow Warbler** (8,61). Common breeding bird.

* **Cerulean Warbler** (1,1). Uncommon and local, most numerous in YRF where 9 were found on June 5. A nesting in YRF is described in IBL 46:20. Bartsch (1895) listed this species as being abundant.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Not found on the foray. I found a singing male during June, 1963 in Winneshiek County and JS found 5 singing males and a fledged young in Fayette County in June-July, 1978. A singing male was found in northern Clayton County on June 11, 1977 (IBL 47:103). Green and Janssen (1975) comment on its disappearance from southeastern Minnesota and that recent isolated summer records may indicate continued breeding. Gromme (1964) lists it as fairly common to common in Wisconsin.

Prairie Warbler. Not found on the foray. A singing male was observed several times in YRF during June, 1962 by DK. The bird was territorial, but no nest was found. A Houston County, Minnesota sighting on June 10, 1975 is described in the Loon 48:70.

* **Ovenbird** (4,23). Common breeding bird.

* **Louisiana Waterthrush**. Uncommon breeding bird. Two were found in YRF and 1 along the Yellow River on June 8. Fledged young were reported during June, 1975 in YRF (IBL 45:94) and nests were reported from Pikes Peak State Park, Clayton County in 1957 and 1958 (Brown, 1971).

Kentucky Warbler (3,6). Uncommon and local, most numerous in YRF. A nesting is described in IBL 46:20.

* **Common Yellowthroat** (9,170). Common breeding bird. Bartsch (1895) found this species to be the most abundant of the warblers and it still retains that position.

* **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Rare breeding bird. Three singing males were present in YRF during the foray period.

Hooded Warbler. Probably rare breeding bird, but conclusive evidence is lacking. A singing male was observed along the Yellow River during the foray and on into July. This was on the same area where a pair were found on August 7, 1976 and a singing male during June-July 1977. Another singing male was found in YRF on July 6 and 7, 1976.

* **American Redstart** (7,23). Common breeding bird.

* **House Sparrow** (9,992). Common breeding bird.

* **Bobolink** (9,215). Common breeding bird.

* **Eastern Meadowlark** (9,123). Common breeding bird.

Western Meadowlark (9,408). Common breeding bird. Not found by Bartsch (1895).

Yellow-headed Blackbird. Fairly common breeding bird in suitable habitat. A colony of about 100 individuals was found on LBL by DK and JS on June 21.

* **Red-winged Blackbird** (9,1350). Common breeding bird.

* **Orchard Oriole** (2,3). Uncommon breeding bird. Three were at L&D No. 9 during the foray period, 1 at Harper's Ferry on June 8, and 1 at Lansing on June 21. Bartsch (1895) called it abundant.

Northern Oriole (9,106). Common breeding bird.

* **Common Grackle** (9,536). Common breeding bird.

* **Brown-headed Cowbird** (9,336). Common breeding bird.

* **Scarlet Tanager** (9,32). Common breeding bird. Bartsch (1895) called it abundant.

Northern Cardinal (9,250). Common breeding bird. The first cardinal was reported in the county in 1913 (Wilson Bull. 25:205).

* **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** (9,161). Common breeding bird.

* **Indigo Bunting** (9,181). Common breeding bird.

* Dickcissel (9,45). Common breeding bird.

* American Goldfinch (9,125). Common breeding bird.

* Rufous-sided Towhee (8,40). Common breeding bird.

Savannah Sparrow (7,134). Common breeding bird.

* Grasshopper Sparrow (7,51). Common breeding bird.

Henslow's Sparrow. Not found on the foray. Rare breeding bird. I have found Henslow's Sparrows several times in past years in YRF during the breeding season.

* Vesper Sparrow (8,76). Common breeding bird.

* Lark Sparrow (1,2). Rare breeding bird. Several were found on the foray in an area of sandy soil southwest of New Albin.

* Chipping Sparrow (9,74). Common breeding bird.

* Field Sparrow (9,180). Common breeding bird.

* Swamp Sparrow. Not found on the foray. Rare breeding bird.

* Song Sparrow (9,247). Common breeding bird.

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First Nesting of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Iowa

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The range of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) extends from southern Nebraska to Texas and occasionally east from southwest Missouri to western Louisiana. (1). The chances, then, of an individual finding a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Iowa are small. In fact, in the past 9 years only five sightings have been recorded in *Iowa Bird Life*. Likewise, we were unable to locate any record of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher ever having nested in Iowa.

During the fourth week of July, Dr. David and Carla Graham reported to Jim Dinsmore of Iowa State University that they had seen a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher south of Ames. A search was started on Sunday, July 29th but the bird was not seen. Finally, on Monday evening the 30th, the flycatcher was found by Dr. Dinsmore 2.0 miles south of Lincoln Way on State Avenue (Story County, SE quarter of section 17, T83NR24W).

Alex Thierman and Hank Zaletel arrived at the site about 6 p.m. on the 31st. We were met by Gene and Marilyn Burns of Jamaica. The Flycatcher was very easy

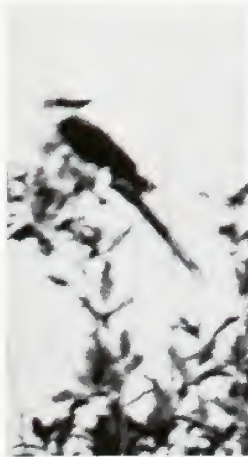
to spot as it readily perched on nearby utility wires and treetops. We concluded that the bird we were viewing was either a female or a juvenile because the tail was only 7-8 inches long. During our observations, we noted that the bird would fly to a nearby field every 15-20 minutes and then return to a red pine located on the corner of the lot with an insect or a berry.

We suspected that there might be another flycatcher in the area when we heard indistinct calls coming from the pine but could not locate another bird. We did, however, locate a nest on a horizontal branch 35 feet above the ground with a northeastern exposure. Alex Thierman climbed the tree and inched his way to the nest which was located precariously at the end of the branch; he found one Scissor-tailed Flycatcher chick. It was well developed, strong and with 1" long primaries on wings and tail. The right eye was red. It appeared that an internal hemorrhage had caused the eyeball to fill with blood. The nest was neatly made out of tightly woven grass and dry twigs. The cup of the nest had an internal diameter of about 4 inches and depth of 1½ to 2"; it was heavily lined with raw sheep wool. After we examined the chick it was banded by Gene Burns and placed back in the nest. The female quickly returned to the area, but would not approach the nest and feed the young chick while observers were in the vicinity.

The authors were to discover later that the nest had been found earlier that same day by Gene Armstrong of Booneville. On August 1st, Tom Stone and his son arrived from Waterloo; they and Hank Zaletel found the chick sitting on the edge of the nest. The following day, Betty Ford of Des Moines and Hank Zaletel easily located the female bird but the chick was not to be found. Only when they were about to leave, did Zaletel notice the chick on a tree stump some 25 yards from the nest site. The female bird would not approach the chick while they were still in the area. Only when they had entered their cars and remained motionless, would the female approach and feed the young fledgling. This was the last time the birds were seen by the authors. To our knowledge, the birds were last seen on Monday, August 6th by Steve Dinsmore.

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Adult and nestling Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Photos by Alex Thierman

I. O. U. Fall Meeting - September 22 and 23, 1979 Notes

MARY LOU PETERSEN
DAVENPORT, IOWA

The fall meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held at Keosauqua, Iowa on September 22 and 23, 1979. It must be mentioned by your secretary that this was a "turkey" of a meeting. Before any slight is taken, I must say that Lacey-Keosauqua State Park is the place to view both Wild Turkeys and Turkey Vultures. I have not seen such a concentration of Turkey Vultures since I viewed the unofficial, unpaid, and only sanitation service that was performed by said birds in Brazil in 1969.

President Carl Kurtz welcomed the group to the meeting following a very good meal at the lodge in Lacey Keosauqua State Park which was catered by Hotel Manning of Keosauqua. President Kurtz asked the group to show their appreciation to Mrs. Oneita Fisher of Keosauqua, for the fine work she did preparing for the meeting.

The evening program began with a talk and slides about Shimek State Forest by Wayne Fuhlbrugge. This was followed by Dean Roosa, who spoke to the group about the Spring Foray in Lee County and about his hawk banding. The members' slide fest followed with slides presented by Tom Kent of Iowa City, Bill Heusinkveld of Centerville, Eva Weltzien of Bonn, West Germany, Carl Kurtz of Saint Anthony, and Peter Petersen of Davenport.

Following the program, President Kurtz announced the invitation of the 1980 spring meeting by the Great Lakes Audubon Society to be held at Okoboji. Peter Petersen announced the birding areas book will be going to the printer very soon and that members who had purchased the book might have it in their hands before Christmas.

Members gathered Sunday morning at Hotel Manning for the field trips. The morning dawned bright and clear, but warblers were few. Following the noon luncheon at the shelter in the park in Bentonsport, Peter Petersen conducted the compilation of the day's birding. Ninety-two species were seen. President Kurtz reminded the group of the spring meeting and said the dates would be May 9, 10 and 11, 1980. He also mentioned that there were Am. White Pelicans at Red Rock. Mrs. Fisher requested that the secretary write a thank you note to Wendell Mohr who made the sign, "Welcome Iowa Bird Watchers", that hung on the balcony of Hotel Manning. The members were encouraged to visit the photo exhibit of birds taken by members that was displayed at the Odd Fellows Hall in Bentonsport. The meeting was then adjourned.

Following the meeting, President Kurtz told your secretary that Tom Kent would replace Nicholas Halmi as Chairman of the checklist committee.

Birds Seen on the Field Trip September 23, 1979 in
Van Buren and Western Lee County

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl,

Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Empidonax sp. Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Total - 92 species. Seen Saturday, Sept. 22 only - Northern Harrier, American Coot, Common Screech Owl, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blackburnian Warbler, Pine Siskin and Song Sparrow.

REGISTERED ATTENDANCE

BOONEVILLE: Eloise and Eugene Armstrong.
 BURLINGTON: Jane Fuller, Anna Mae Lowther.
 CEDAR RAPIDS: Beryl and Pat Layton, Roberta Opedahl, Joy Stoker.
 CENTERVILLE: Craig and Enid Coulter, Bill and Marjorie Hensinkveld, Bob and Kay Malmberg.
 DAVENPORT: Mary Lou and Peter Petersen.
 DECORAH: Darwin Koenig.
 DES MOINES: Ruth Binsfeld, Ruth Buckles, Betty Jones, Dick and Pauly Mooney, Dean Roosa, Mark Rouw.
 DOUDS: Verna Canaday, Myrna Jones.
 DUBUQUE: Frieda and George Grossley.
 FAIRFIELD: Evelyn Brown, Viola Hayward, Margaret Lowell.
 IOWA CITY: Ann and Tom Kent.
 KEOSAUQUA: Kathy and Oneita Fisher, Warren Keck.
 MARION: Lucile Liljedahl.
 MILTON: Ruth M. Wilson.
 NEWTON: Edith and Herb Dorow.
 OSKALOOSA: Irene and Keith Layton.
 OTTUMWA: Charels C. and Darleen Ayres, Anne and Chuck Current, Bernard C. Fulton, Blossom H. Hallberg, Sam Harper, Nelson and Randy Hoskins.
 ST. ANTHONY: Carl Kurtz.
 ST. LUCAS: Joe Schaufenbuel.
 SEYMOUR: Charlotte Scott.
 SPRINGVILLE: Nellie and Stanley Atherton.
 STATE CENTER: Dorothy and Jim Maish.
 WATERLOO: Anna Mae and Harvey Kirchgatter, Francis Moore.
 BONN, WEST GERMANY: Eva Weltzien.

TOTAL: 62

FIELD REPORTS



Summer 1979

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, Ia. 52240

WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

The late spring and relatively cool June was reported to delay nesting by two weeks (JD).

GENERAL TRENDS

Many migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, flycatchers, and warblers lingered into June. It is not clear to what degree the late spring and the extensive coverage of the state contributed to this finding. Darwin Koenig, Joe Schaufenbuel, Ross Silcock and others participated in a state-wide survey of field and woodland birds organized by Dean Roosa producing much needed data on summer species and suggesting that our list of regular nesting species may be greater than expected. The foray in southeast Iowa resulted in many unexpected finds.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The best bird of the summer was a Western Pewee seen and heard by Joe Schaufenbuel at Elm Lake in Wright County on June 21, a first state record for this species. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nesting south of Ames reported by Jim Din-smore and seen by many others appears to be the first nesting record for this occasional vagrant. Spring records of Yellow-throated Warblers were followed by summer records suggesting nesting at Wildcat Den S.P. (TS), Lee County (DK) and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (DK,JS). Other unusual summer findings include an immature Golden Eagle at Coralville R. (NH), a dead White-winged Crossbill near Anita (DP), and a Scaup with two young near Ames (LZ).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Common Loon: 2 lingered at Forney L. until June 17 (RS,BW); 1 at Cardinal M. June 23 (DK).

Eared Grebe: 1 at Lizard L. Pocahontas Co. July 3 (DK).

Western Grebe (BL): 5 at Mud and Trumbell L's Clay Co. June 15 (*JD) 1 at Forney L. until June 17 (RS,BW).

American White Pelican (BL): 15 in Clay Co. June 14 (JD); 5 at Forney L. until July 8 (RS,BW,TK,TS).

Double-crested Cormorant (BL): 1 to 3 reported from all corners of the state in in June and July (DK,BW,JD,TK,HZ); 20 mostly immature at Forney L. June 17 (RS).

Great Blue Heron: good numbers in eastern Iowa with highest count of 35 at Mark Twain N.W.R. July 22 (TK,TS,NH).

Cattle Egret: The only one seen was in southeast Iowa (KF).

Great Egret: Few reported except for 35 at Mark Twain N.W.R. July 22 (TK,TS,NH).

Black-crowned Night Heron (BL): 20 nests washed out at Hottes L., Dickinson Co. (JD); singles at Rice L. and Green Island (DK).

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: An adult was seen at Mark Twain N.W.R. July 22 at a separate location from 3 unidentified immature night herons (TK,TS,NH); immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported at Green Island July 27 (DK), Willow Slough, Mills Co. July 27 (*BW), and Sunken Cove at Varina July 7 (*RC).

Least Bittern (BL): Only two sightings, 1 at Green Island June 6 and July 24 (DK) and 1 at Willow Slough June 7 (BW). None at usual locations near Ruthven (JD) nor at Forney L. (RS).

American Bittern (BL): 2 at Union S. June 26 (DK); fairly common near Ruthven (JD).

Snow Goose: 1 at Rice L. June 25 (DK); 30 summering at Forney L. (m.ob.).

Canada Goose: Nesting near Ruthven (JD); others at Hendrickson M., Green Island and Mark Twain N.W.R. (DK,TK,TS,NH).

Wood Duck: Good numbers reported from eastern Iowa.

American Wigeon: 1 at Willow S. July 23 (BW).

Gadwall: 1 to 3 at Willow S. all summer (BW).

Green-winged Teal: 1 to 3 at six widely scattered areas (DF,JD,TK).

Mallard: Large numbers nesting in eastern Iowa (PP,TK).

Common Pintail: Probably nesting in Clay Co. (JD).

Canvasback (BL): A late migrant at Montrose June 9 (TK,MN,JH).

Redhead: A common nester at Ruthven (JD); two early June records in eastern Iowa (PP,RH).

Ring-necked Duck: Six June reports from widely scattered sites.

Lesser Scaup: Five June and one July report from widely scattered areas. A Scaup with two young was seen at Hickory Grove P. Story Co. (LZ).

Hooded Merganser: 1 at Willow S. June 26 (BW); 1 at Green Island July 25 (DK).

Common Merganser: 1 at Mud L. Clay Co. June 28 (JD).

Ruddy Duck: Common nester at Ruthven (JD); reported from four other areas.

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEYS

Turkey Vulture: 50 were seen in southeast Iowa on June 9, the largest concentration being at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (MN,TK,JH).

Cooper's Hawk (BL): 1 at Yellow River F. June 21 (DK).

Red-tailed Hawk: Koenig reports good numbers throughout the state.

Red-shouldered Hawk (BL): Singles seen in Butler and Lee Cos. (DK,PP).

Broad-winged Hawk: Found at six locations in northeast Iowa (JS,DK).

Golden Eagle: An immature reported at the Coralville R. July 28 (+NH).

American Kestrel: Many found in northern half of the state, especially the northeast (JS,DK,RS,DB).

Ruffed Grouse: 1 at Shimek F. possibly heralds successful introduction into southeast Iowa (DR); good numbers in northeast (DK).

Common Bobwhite: Reported as scarce in southeastern Iowa (PP,KF,NH).

Gray Partridge: Continued good numbers in northern Iowa (DK,JD) with southward extension to northern Audubon Co. (RS).

Wild Turkey: Birds found since last summer on the northern edge of Iowa City still raise questions as to their origin (TS).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS

Virginia Rail: Nest at Cardinal M. (DK), other sightings at Rice L. and Muskrat S. (DK,FT).

Sora: Found at Union S. and Cardinal M (DK).

Common Gallinule: Adults with young at Green Island July 27 (DK); also found at Rice L. and Cardinal M. (DK,JS).

American Coot: Abundant nester in northern Iowa (DK); especially northwest (JD); few in other areas.

American Avocet: 1 at Council Bluffs July 17 (JG,TB,BP,SK).

Hudsonian Godwit: Single late migrants at Ames June 3 (HZ) and Willow S. June 1 (BW).

Upland Sandpiper (BL): Scattered reports (PP,MN,TK,RS,BW) but largest numbers in south central and northeast Iowa (DK,JS).

Solitary Sandpiper: This species returns in July along with Lesser Yellow-legs and Pectorals; 15 seen at Mark Twain N.W.R. and Cone M. on July 15 (TK,TS,NH).

Willet: A late migrant at Forney L. June 1 (RS).

Wilson's Phalarope: 1 at Big M. on June 14 (DK).

Northern Phalarope: 1 at Green Bayou north of Ft. Madison on June 2 (PP,JS).

Common Snipe: 1 at Rice L. June 25 (DK).

Sanderling: Late migrants at Willow S. June 1 (BW) and Green Bayou on June 2 (PP,JS).

Western Sandpiper: 1 at Willow S. July 23 (BW).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Four early June reports (NH,BW,DK,PP).

Baird's Sandpiper: 1 at Willow S. June 1 (BW).

Stilt Sandpiper: 1 at Green Bayou on June 2 (JS,PP), 1 at Council Bluffs June 10 (JD,TB,BP,SK), and 2 at Cone M. July 22 (TK,TS,NH).

Franklin's Gull: 13 at Ames June 9 (HZ); 1 at Trumbell L. June 14 (JD).

Forster's Tern: Nesting in northwest Iowa (JD).

Caspian Tern: Reports from four widely scattered areas in June and early July.

PIGEONS THROUGH KINGFISHERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (BL): Reported as fairly common to numerous by many observers.

Black-billed Cuckoo (BL): About half as numerous as Yellow-billed (DK).

Barn Owl (BL): Two young were fledged at Ross Silcock's farm in southwest Iowa on July 31. The adults and Ross' hospitality were appreciated by many observers.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (BL): Hummingbirds are uncommon in Iowa in the summer; only four observers reported them (DK,JG,NH,HZ).

Belted Kingfisher: Scarce (JS), but not as scarce as hummingbirds.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Red-headed Woodpecker (BL): Numerous, not deserving of Blue List status in Iowa.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 at Green Island July 26 (DK).

Hairy Woodpecker (BL): Surprisingly, Koenig who covered large areas of Iowa found Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers in equal numbers.

Western Kingbird: 1 eastern Iowa sighting at Shimek F. June 9 (*MN,TK,JH).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: First evidence of nesting in Iowa July 30 south of Ames (*JD).

Eastern Phoebe: Several pairs nest at Wildcat Den S.P. (TS,TK); otherwise scarce.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 at Shimek F. June 2 (JS,PP).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reports from many areas in eastern Iowa (DK,JS,PP,TS,TK,MN,JH).

Willow Flycatcher: Common near Ruthven (JD); also at several sites in eastern Iowa (JS,DK).

Least Flycatcher: Numerous reports suggest possible nesting of this species: Shimek F. June 1 (JS), Trumbell L. June 15 (JD), Yellow River F. June 21 (DK), Clayton Co. July 12 (DK), Volga L. July 7, 22 (JS).

Western Pewee: First state record from Wright Co. (north central Iowa) by *Joe Schaufenbuel. (see longer note).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Late records at Coralville R. June 6 (RH) and Union Grove S.P. June 11 (JS).

Purple Martin (BL): Appear to be on the increase (DM,TS,FT).

JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS

Brown Creeper: 1 at Dolliver S.P. June 30 (JS).

Winter Wren: Reported at three areas in northeast Iowa in late June (DK).

Carolina Wren: Only report from north of Ft. Madison (PP).

Marsh Wren: Common in Ruthven area (JD); not reported from other areas.

Veery: Reports from ten locations from early June to early July suggest likely widespread nesting of this species.

Eastern Bluebird (BL): Although reported from many areas most observers consider numbers to be reduced.

Loggerhead Shrike: Scattered reports in small numbers.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireo: Reports from Shimek F. (PP,JB), Iowa City (TS,TK), Vinton (JS) and five other localities (DK).

Bell's Vireo (BL): Found in many localities in southeastern Iowa (DK,TS,TK,MN).

Warbling Vireo (BL): Considered reduced in Cherokee area (DB).

Black-and-white Warbler: 1 at Shimek F. June 9 (TK,MN); a singing male at Volga L. July 7 (JS).

Worm-eating Warbler: 15 of this rare species were found at Shimek and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. during the Foray (PP et al).

Golden-winged Warbler: 1 in Lee Co. June 2 (KF).

Tennessee Warbler: 1 at Shimek F. June 1 (JS,DK).

Nashville Warbler: A late spring migrant at Shimek F. June 5 (JS) and early fall migrant at Volga L. July 22 (JS).

Northern Parula Warbler: A nest found at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JS,DK); other sightings in Lee Co., Wapsipinicon S.P. and Monticello (JS).

Yellow Warbler: Reported as common in northern Iowa (DK,JD); appear reduced in southern Iowa (m.ob.)

Cerulean Warbler: Many sightings in eastern Iowa (DK,JS,PP,HZ,TK,TS).

Blackburnian Warbler: 1 at Shimek F. June 3 (DK,DR).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Following the sighting of 4 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. in late May, 1 was found in Lee Co. June 2 (DK). The singing male found at Wildcat Den S.P. in May was still present on July 1 (TS).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 2 at Shimek F. June 1 could be late migrants (JS), but a pair at Volga L. July 7 may indicate nesting.

Louisiana Waterthrush: Koenig found 19 in eastern Iowa.

Kentucky Warbler: Koenig found 50 in eastern Iowa.

Mourning Warbler: Reported from Shimek F. June 1 (JS) and June 9 (MN), Wapsipinicon S.P. June 4 (JS) and White Pine Hollow June 19 (DK).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Koenig reported 18 from eastern Iowa.

Hooded Warbler: Singing males at Shimek F. June 1 and Volga L. July 7 (JS).

Canada Warbler: Single at Bellevue S.P. June 5 and White Pine Hollow June 19 (DK).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH SPARROWS

Orchard Oriole: Small numbers reported from many areas (DK, DB,HZ,LZ,TK,MN,JH).

Blue Grosbeak: Singles in Lee Co. June 1 and Harrison Co. July 20 (DK).

Dickcissel (BL): Newlon reported an increase on federal survey routes, Petersen

a decrease, but changes are difficult to judge from individual reports. The state-wide survey should establish a better baseline for judgment.

Pine Siskin: Young fledged from a nest a few feet over a busy sidewalk on the Medical Campus in Iowa City on June 14 (TS,TK).

White-winged Crossbill: Dorothy Parker documented a dead bird found near Anita, Iowa, on July 24.

Vesper Sparrow: Reported as decreased in Des Moines and Davenport areas (WB,PP) and common near Ruthven (JD).

Lark Sparrow: Reported from Lee, Louisa, Muscatine and Linn Cos. (TK,PP,FT).

White-throated Sparrow: Late migrants in Lee Co. June 3 and June 9 (KF,TK,MN).

Swamp Sparrow: Reported as common in northern part of state.

BL -- blue list

* -- documented

OBSERVERS AND *CONTRIBUTORS

*Dick Bierman, Cherokee; *Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; John Bowles; Tanya Bray, Omaha, NE; * Woodward Brown, Des Moines; *James Dinsmore, Ames; Kathy Fisher; *Janet Greer, Council Bluffs; *Nicholas Halmi, Iowa City; *Rick Hollis, Iowa City; James Huntington, Iowa City; *Thomas Kent, Iowa City; *Darwin Koenig, Decorah; Sandy Kovanda, Omaha, NE; *Dean Mosman, Elkhart; *Michael Newlon, Iowa City; Babs Padelford; *Dorothy Parker, Anita; *Peter Petersen, Davenport; Dean Roosa, Des Moines; *Joe Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas; *Thomas Shires, Iowa City; *Ross Silcock, Malvern; Fred Thompson, Marion; *Barbara Wilson, Hastings; *Hank Zaletel, Ames; *Linda Zaletel, Ames.

COMMENTS

When Pete Petersen asked me to become Field Reports Editor, I agreed to do so with the provision that I could try some new ideas and use a **Comments** section to discuss topical issues. Under the leadership of Woody Brown and Nick Halmi, the Field Reports has stimulated Iowa's most active birders to carefully document and share their findings. I was impressed by the number and quality of reports received for the summer season.

You have already seen my first new idea - a new format. After reviewing the style of Field Reports from eleven other state journals and discussing the issues with Pete Petersen, I came up with the present format. My goals were to make bibliographic citations from the Field Reports easier and clearer, to provide distinct sections for general information and comments, and to make it easier to find and review data on individual species. I have attempted to use conventions for punctuation and abbreviations that will save space without requiring the reader to look up abbreviations. Your comments and suggestions will be appreciated.

My biggest shock in taking over the Field Reports editing was to learn the complexity of the task. Let me share a few of the problems you can help me with. One of my jobs is to send the Field Reports and your individual reports to the Regional Editor of American Birds fifteen days after the close of the season. This gives me a very short time to collate and analyze the observations, write the report, engage a secretary to type, and duplicate your reports (a copy is kept on permanent file for future use by Iowa birders). So I ask you to mail your results on the first day of the month following the end of the period so that I receive them no later than the seventh day of the month. Since I have to collate and copy the reports, it will be much appreciated if you use 8½ x 11 white paper and black ink (colored paper and blue ink do not copy well). I have made a form sheet for my own reports. If you would like a copy, send me a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please send me your suggestions for improving the Field Notes. Let me know about errors and omissions so they can be corrected.

GENERAL NOTES



First Western Pewee for Iowa -- On June 21, 1979, I discovered a Western Pewee (*Contopus sordidulus*) at Elm Lake in Wright County. The bird was first located when its distinct nasal, buzzy 'bree-zu' call was heard. Investigating I observed the bird perched mid-way up in a Cottonwood, about 25 feet high. The bird sang frequently giving its call about 30 times during the 12 minutes the pewee was under observation. The bird made several kingbird-style attacks on House Sparrows and a Common Flicker that flew nearby. The Western Pewee moved from perch to perch after each feeding or attack flight, taking the bird farther from the original point of first sighting with each flight. Eventually the bird took a long flight and became lost from view as it apparently became nonvocal, and could not be relocated.

In size, shape and actions the bird was much like an Eastern Pewee (*Contopus virens*) with exceptions that the bird seemed gray, not olive, like the Eastern on the upperparts. The identification therefore is based almost entirely on the birds vocalizations. Since I am familiar with the Western Pewee's habits and calls, I have seen the bird in Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota, it is my firm belief that the identification is correct and a first for Iowa.

Why this species would occur in central Iowa is anybody's guess, it is known to breed as far east as central South Dakota along the Missouri River, and Minnesota has recently added it to their state list when it was found breeding in the northwest part of that state in 1977.

Darwin Koenig made an attempt to locate the bird at Elm Lake on June 23 but had no luck in relocating the bird. The specific time and location of the sighting was at 12:00 to 12:12 p.m. on the n.e. parking lot of Elm Lake. -- JOE SCHAUFENBUEL, St. Lucas.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in Northwest Iowa -- On May 13, 1979, while walking through a grove of trees on my parents' farm, located four miles east of Hull in Sioux County, Iowa, I noticed a medium-sized woodpecker removing bark fragments from a fallen log. Upon closer inspection, the bird turned to be a male Black-backed, Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*), a species which is known to occasionally move south during the winter.

I observed the bird in good light at approximately 1300 hours from a distance of approximately eight meters. Identifying marks such as the golden crown, black-back and three-toed condition were clearly visible. The bird was flaking bark in typical fashion. -- GILBERT W. BLANKENSPoor, Asst. Prof. of Biology, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. D.

Some Records of Overtime Incubation for Canada Geese in Northwestern Iowa -- During a Giant Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*) nesting study in the Ingham Lake, High Lake area of Emmet County, Iowa, in 1977 and 1978, I saw five goose nests that received overtime incubation. The normal incubation period for Canada Geese averages about 28 days (Brakhage 1965, *J. Wildl. Manage.* 29: 751-771; Cooper 1978, *Wildl. Monogr.* No. 61, 87 pp.). Overtime incubation may occur when all eggs in a clutch are infertile or contain dead embryos. Several researchers have recorded overtime incubation in Canada Geese, and this information has been summarized by Cooper (op. cit.). The purpose of this note is to add some

Iowa records to this information.

The average length of overtime incubation in Iowa was 53 days (range 42 to 71 days). Cooper (op. cit.) found that the average overtime incubation period for 63 nests was 42 days, with the longest being 91 days. In one instance, Cooper (op. cit.) found that, after 30 days of incubation, the goose failed to maintain the environment capable of hatching an egg, but the goose continued to attend the nest for 9 more days. He believed that such behavior was typical and that the female, because of the fasting behavior during incubation, is not capable of incubating beyond 30 days.

During my study, two geese incubating nests after 40 days displayed incubation behavior similar to that of geese during the final week of normal incubation. I believe that these two geese were incubating with sufficient attentiveness to maintain an environment capable of hatching an egg well beyond the 30-day period suggested by Cooper (op. cit.).

I thank J. Dinsmore for his helpful suggestions. This is Journal Paper No. J-9464 of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. Project No. 2170 -- THOMAS A. NIGUS, Department of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames, Ia. 50011.

Purple Gallinule in Ames -- On 22 May 1978 Mrs. Lorna Volmer found an injured Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) in her yard in north Ames, only a few hundred meters from a wooded park adjacent to the Skunk River. The bird was easy to approach and eventually was given to Graham. He found that the right femur was broken, and set it with a steel pin. The bird weakened and died on 23 May. Graham then gave the bird to Dinsmore who prepared it as specimen No. 1648 in the Iowa State University collection of birds. The bird, a female, was emaciated.

Anderson (1907) considered the species accidental in Iowa, listing three early workers (Allen, Peck, and Krider) who mentioned the species although no specimens were collected, Fenton (1916) claimed one was shot in Floyd County in 1891 and another was seen near Charles City on 9 September 1915 but Gabrielson (1917) questioned the validity of those records. Brown (1971) mentions two more records: one in 1937 near Cedar Falls (Dix, 1937) and one photographed in 1964 south of Iowa City (Kent, 1964). More recently one was seen on a farm pond 7 miles south of Ottumwa in late summer and early fall 1974 (Ayres and Ayres, 1975; D. and C. Ayres, pers. commun.) and another was seen near Promise City on 10 May 1975 (Brown, 1975). Thus this constitutes the fifth unquestioned record of the Purple Gallinule in Iowa in this century and the first for which a specimen is available.

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JAMES J. DINSMORE, Dept. Animal Ecology, Iowa State Univ., Ames, and
DAVID L. GRAHAM, Dept. Vet. Pathology, Iowa State Univ., Ames 50011.

Similar Aberrant House Sparrows Reported in Iowa and New Jersey -- Recently Mr. Clifford L. Chase of Council Bluffs, Iowa, photographed an unusual bird which had been visiting his feeder in company of House Sparrows. The winter of 1977-78 was the third winter these birds (there apparently were more than one) had appeared at his feeder. The unusual bird was slightly larger than a House Sparrow, with its plumage uniformly creamy-buff in color. There were no streaks, wing-bars or other markings. The eyes and legs were dark, resembling those of a normal House Sparrow. However the bill seemed rather large, almost grosbeak-like. This latter characteristic was puzzling, suggesting that the bird may not have been simply an aberrant House Sparrow. Hence the picture was sent to Mr. Richard Ryan, Zoo Director for the Essex County Park Commission, Newark, New Jersey, who is an expert on escaped and exotic birds in North America, familiar in this role to readers of *Birding*, the publication of the American Birding Association.

The following is the text of the letter received in reply: "I have examined the picture of the large white bird from Council Bluffs . . . The bird resembles no exotic. It does, however, match closely the appearance of some aberrant House Sparrows that lived for 4-5 years here in West Orange, New Jersey. We know these birds to be House Sparrows because we saw the original parents, eventual mates, and their offspring, all of which were normal looking House Sparrows. The color pattern of the bird in the photograph plus patterns described for others (by Mr. Chase) matched perfectly as did the appearance of large size by at least one individual (in Iowa and New Jersey). None of ours had the enlarged bill, but this additional variation is certainly a reasonable part of genetic mutation. Ours departed in Fall and returned in Spring. Eventually we found their wintering spot was a horse stable some 1½ miles away."

If it can be accepted that the likelihood of such similar mutations occurring in widely separated populations is very small, then there is some indication of a relationship between the gene pools of New Jersey and these Western Iowa House Sparrows, i.e. the mutation is acting as a genetic marker. This is probably best explained by the westward spread of House Sparrows in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries into Iowa. It also indicates that the entire Iowa population of House Sparrows may not necessarily be derived from the several introductions that were made in the state. If anyone has aberrant House Sparrows of this type at their feeders, we would like to hear about them. -- ROSS SILCOCK, RR 2, Malvern, and JANET GREER, 341 Steven Circle, Council Bluffs.

A Return on a Banded Goldfinch -- On April 24, 1975, I banded a female American Goldfinch in my yard at Lamoni, Iowa, and on February 1, 1978, it was recovered by Bernard Fraizer, Chariton, Iowa. In a letter from him he wrote the following:

"We have been feeding birds the last ten years and the goldfinches the last three years. I have been a grocery buyer in the Chariton Hy-Vee warehouse for twenty-one years and have purchased the bird feed all those years. I expect I can even take some credit for the amount of Niger thistle seed that has been sold in all our Hy-Vee stores. We feed birds both in town at our house and in the country

where we have a year around summer cottage. The female goldfinch flew against a large sliding door on the back side of our house and was stunned. I noticed a band on her leg and recorded the number. The finch recovered and flew away. I sent the band to Gladys Black, Pleasantville, Iowa, who is a bird bander, and she sent it on to the banding office. I received a certificate of appreciation from Washington with your name and the banding information."

I thought it was interesting that the American Goldfinch that I banded in my yard in 1975 was feeding in Mr. Frazier's yard in Chariton in 1978. -- MRS. W. C. DeLONG, 314 N. Silver, Lamoni.

Notes on the Hosts of the Goldenrod Gall Fly -- In Iowa Bird Life, Moeller and Thogerson (1978) reported predation by the Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*) on the Goldenrod Gall Fly (*Eurosta solidaginis*) which produced galls on Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*) in thier study area.

It should also be noted that other species of Compositae may also serve as hosts for the Goldenrod Gall Fly and thus may serve as an additional winter food source for the Downy Woodpecker. Other known hosts for *Eurosta solidaginis* are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Other Hosts of *Eurosta solidaginis*

Host	Author
Aster sp.	Miller (1841)
<i>Solidago altissima</i>	Miller 1959); Winterringer (1961)
<i>Solidago gigantia</i>	Miller (1959)
<i>Solidago graminifolia</i>	Uhler (1951)
<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Harrington (1895); Uhler (1951)
<i>Solidago serotina</i>	Harrington (1895)
<i>Solidago ulmifolia</i>	Miller (1959)

Harrington, W. H.

1895. Occupants of the galls of *Eurosta solidaginis* Fitch. *Canad. Ent.* 27(8): 197-198.

Harris, T. W.

1841. **A report on the insects of Massachusetts injurious to vegetation.** Com. Zool. Bot. Survey. Folsom, Wells, and Thurston. Cambridge, Mass. 459 pp.

Miller, W. E.

1959. Natural history notes on the goldenrod ball gall fly, *Eurosta solidaginis* (Fitch), and its parasites, *Eurytoma obtusiventris* Gaban and *E. gigantea* Walsh. *Tenn. Acad. Sci. Journ.* 34(4):246-251.

Moeller, R. K. and M. T. Thogerson.

1978. Predation by the Downy Woodpecker on the Goldenrod Gall Fly larva. *Iowa Bird Life* 58:131-135.

Uhler, L. D.

1951. Biology and ecology of the goldenrod gall fly. N. Y. (Cornell) *Agr. Expt. Sta. Mem.* 300:1-51.

Winterringer, G. S.

1961. Some plant galls of Illinois. *Ill. State Mus., Story of Ill. Ser.* 12:1-51.

A. C. HAMAN, Department of Biology, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls.

Swainson's Hawk Nest in Hardin County -- I flushed a Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) from a nest in the Mann Wilderness Area of Hardin County on 29 April 1978. Twenty-seven days later (26 May) I climbed to the nest and found three eggs. As the Swainson's Hawk incubation period is about 28 days (Brown and Amadon 1968, *Eagles, Hawks & Falcons of the World*, 945 pp.), the eggs apparently were

near hatching. On 29 June I banded three healthy young approximately 4 weeks old. The nest was well concealed from the ground and the young should have had no problems fledging. The nest was 60 feet from the ground in a red oak (*Quercus rubra*). It was on a steep slope in a heavily forested area near the Iowa River.

The Swainson's Hawk apparently has been nesting in the state more frequently during the past 25 years (Knight, *IBL* Vol. 36, 84-86; at least three nests were found in 1978 (*IBL* Vol. 48, p. 72). However, perusal of past issues of *Iowa Bird Life* and the *Iowa Ornithologist* revealed no nesting records for Hardin County. Nests have been reported in adjacent Story (Knight, *IBL* Vol. 36 p. 84-86) and Wright Counties (Roosa, *IBL* Vol. 36 p. 88-90). Jim Dinsmore and Rick Sojda accompanied me during visits to the nest. -- JIM BEDNARZ, Dept. of Animal Ecology, I.S.U., Ames.

Comparative Abundance of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers in Iowa -- In preparing a recent paper on winter woodpecker populations (*I.B.L.* 47:75-92, 1977). I deleted a section on the comparative abundance of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. However, as there is some concern about the numbers of Hairy Woodpeckers in Iowa, there may be some value and-or interest in that information; so the following information is presented as an addendum to the above mentioned study.

As can be seen from the table below, there are about 42 Hairy Woodpeckers seen per 100 Downies in extreme northern Iowa and this ratio tapers off to 16 Hairies per 100 Downies in extreme southern Iowa. Statewide, the average number of Hairies per 100 Downies (25:100) has remained relatively stable, although down slightly.

Young (*Passenger Pigeon*, Spring Issue, 1961) found that there was a north-south decrease in the number of Hairy Woodpeckers seen compared to the number of Downy Woodpeckers seen in Wisconsin. He found a statewide average of 40 Hairies per 100 Downies for the period 1939-1959. His figure of 50 Hairies per 100 Downies in southwestern Wisconsin is about the same as the 42 Hairies per 100 Downies at a comparable latitude (43 degrees) in Iowa. Graber and Graber (*Ill. Nat. Hist. Surv. Bull.* 28:383-528, 1963) reported that Downy Woodpeckers were recorded four times as often as the Hairy in Illinois during 1957 and 1958. This is the same as the ratio found in Iowa.

Number of Hairy Woodpeckers Observed per 100 Downy Woodpeckers
Observed on Iowa Christmas Bird Counts from 1951-1975

Latitude	5-year Periods (1951-1975)					25-year Average
	1	2	3	4	5	
43 degrees	38	33	36	52	50	42
42 degrees	40	28	36	34	31	33
41 degrees	22	29	22	18	21	22
40 degrees	--	23	31	11	16	16
Statewide	29	29	26	21	25	25

Darwin Koenig, RR 4, Decorah, Iowa

The 1978 Breeding Loggerhead Shrike Population in Fremont County -- During the 1978 Fremont County Foray, Ross Silcock, Mike Thompson, and I watched for shrikes while driving and on Breeding Bird Survey Routes. Another group also recorded two shrikes on a survey route.

The location of each shrike seen was noted on a map. Most were only seen once, but some were seen more often than that. The pair in Green Township,

Section 1, for example, was observed at least four times during the foray. All shrikes seen were assumed to be Loggerhead Shrikes, (*Lanius ludovicianus*), although most were not examined closely, since Northern Shrikes (*L. excubitor*) are not considered summer residents in southern Iowa.

Approximately 211 miles of road were covered along the survey routes and elsewhere in the county by people watching for shrikes. The mileage was measured from a State Dept. of Transportation Fremont County map (scale $\frac{1}{2}$ " equals 1 mile). A road was only counted once, even if traveled several times.

Fremont County had 770.67 miles of county roads (Gary Shrum, Fremont County Engineer, personal communication). There are approximately 75 miles of state and Federal road in the county, as measured from the map, for a total of approximately 846 miles of roads. City streets are excluded, as is I 29, a divided highway where bird watching is impractical. It is paralleled by county roads for most of its length. Therefore, we covered approximately one quarter of the roads in Fremont County. We made no effort to concentrate our travel in suitable shrike habitat.

In this distance, we sighted 14 shrikes at 9 different locations. This might represent as many as 9 pairs (18 adult shrikes) since most Loggerhead Shrikes are paired at this time of year. (S. Dueker, pers. comm.) If our sample of the roads is representative, there are probably 56 (equals 14×4) or more adult Loggerhead Shrikes along the roadsides of Fremont County, and possibly as many as 72 (equals $9 \text{ pairs} \times 4$). -- BARBARA L. WILSON, Hastings.

Chuck-will's-widow Near Akron, Iowa -- On Sunday, May 27, 1979 Mrs. Bryant and I and our daughter and son-in-law Dave and Sylvia Fredericks of Fairfield, Iowa took a short birding trip along the Big Sioux River near Akron. We drove down a country road on the west bank of the river in South Dakota and parked in a shady area with hills covered with mostly Burr Oak on the west and an ox bow of the Big Sioux on the east. While waiting for something to happen Mrs. Bryant who didn't have binoculars asked if that was bird on the branch of the dead elm. At first glance I thought it was a Common Nighthawk but was puzzled as it wasn't sitting lengthwise with the branch as most I have seen do. Fortunately we had brought our field guide and were pleasantly amazed to decide we had a sighting of the Chuck-will's-widow. The bird was about 40 feet above us in good light. General brown tone and buff at the throat and no evidence of white in the wings. We didn't flush the bird but twice it nervously rose somewhat and fluttered it's wings enough that white in the wings would have been evident. This being in South Dakota it can't be recorded as an Iowa record but being only a short distance from Iowa it should be of interest. -- ELDON BRYANT, Akron.

Common Snipe Nesting in Winnebago County -- On 2 June 1978, a Common Snipe (*Capella gallinago*) was flushed from a nest next to a wet roadside ditch about 2 miles north of Harmon Lake in Winnebago County and about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of the Minnesota boundary. The nest contained one egg and was located on moist ground in a dense patch of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) adjacent to a private marsh. The next day, James J. Dinsmore and Joe Fleskes of Iowa State University and I returned to the nest site to take photos and more closely examine the nest. The parent again was flushed from the nest, which still contained only one egg. Snipe usually lay a clutch of four eggs. I revisited the nest on 10 June, and nothing remained except the nest depression.

Snipe arrived on the marsh in early April and, shortly after, began their bleating or winnowing displays, which Tuck (1972) describes in detail. These display flights, which function in marking territories and attracting mates, reached a peak during the last week in April when up to five displaying snipe could

be seen at a time. The number of snipe seen on the marsh declined rapidly during early May, and the individual flushed from the nest was the only snipe observed past mid-May.

The last published record of a snipe nest in Iowa came from a field in Des Moines near the intersection of East 14th St. and Euclid Avenue in 1927 (DuMont 1931). That nest was discovered on 15 May and contained 4 eggs. Anderson (1907) provides the only other Iowa nesting record, which comes from Union Slough, Kossuth County, in 1901. DuMont (1933) recorded the snipe as a recently breeding bird in Story County, and Glover (1948) considered the snipe a breeding resident in Hamilton County, although no nests were seen in either instance. Snipe courtship flights were reported near Des Moines from 15 April to 6 May 1971, but all birds were gone by 10 May (Brown 1971).

The limited reports of breeding snipe in Iowa indicate that this nest discovery is a noteworthy find. However, the snipe may be a more common Iowa nester than the records indicate because of their secretive nesting behavior and little-visited marshland nesting habitat.

These observations were made during a continuing study of Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) breeding ecology designed by the Iowa State Conservation Commission.

Journal Paper No. J-9457 of the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa. Project No. 2170.

Anderson, R. M. 1907. The Birds of Iowa. Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci. 11: 125-417.

Brown, W. H. 1971. Field Reports. I. B. L. 41(2): 49-52.

DuMont, P. A. 1931. *Birds of Polk County, Iowa*. Des Moines Audubon Society. 72 pp.

———. 1933. *A Revised List of the Birds of Iowa*. Univ. Iowa Stud. Nat. Hist. 171 pp.

Glover, F. A. 1948. The 1947 fall migration of aquatic birds through central Iowa. I. B. L. 18 (3): 43-47.

Tuck, L. M. 1972. *The Snipes: A Study of the Genus Capella*. Can. Wildl. Serv. Monogr. Ser. No. 5. 429 pp.

BILL OHDE, Dept. of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames.

BOOK REVIEWS



Continental Birdlife -- P. O. Box 43294, Tucson, Arizona 85733 -- About 32 p. per issue, bimonthly -- \$9.00 per year, beginning 1979.

This new journal stresses North American field identification. It is edited by Kenn Kaufman with Janet Witzeman associate editor. The first issue contained articles on distribution and some very objective book reviews. The articles are similar to some of the articles which appear in *American Birds* on occasion. This fledgling journal is trying to fill a real need and deserves the support of all serious field birders. ed.

Parrots of the World, second edition -- Joseph W. Forshaw and William Cooper -- Lansdowne Editions, Melbourne, distributed in the U. S. by I. S. B. S. Inc., Box 555, Forest Grove, Oregon 97116 -- 616 p., 158 color plates, many maps and line drawings -- 1978 -- \$39.50.

The first edition of this work was widely acclaimed by critics. This revised second edition has been reduced to 8½" x 12" with little loss in size of the birds depicted. A close comparison with the first edition reveals color values very near those of the first edition. The price is \$25.00 under that of the original edition. It is also more easily stored. All of the nearly 340 species and most of the more divergent races are illustrated, ranges mapped and the birds carefully described. Many of the species are found in South and Central America and good illustrations of some are scarce. If you passed up the first edition due to price you are urged to seriously consider this revision. ed.

The Backyard Bird Watcher -- George H. Harrison -- Simon and Schuster, New York -- 284 p., 16 color and many black-and-white photographs -- 1979 -- \$10.95.

Many active field birders got their introduction to birding in their backyard. This book is well titled. It covers plantings, feeders, water sources, pests, injured birds, photography, and the sport of backyard birding. Much of the material is available in other books, but it is not between the covers of any other book in this combination. Some appendix-type features include a calendar for the birding year; organizations for birders, manufacturers of bird houses, feeders and baths, and books of interest. Since the author lives in Wisconsin the application of personal experiences is close to the Iowa experience. The many photographs illustrate much of the material covered, but the inclusion of several of the same photographs in color and black-and-white is inexcusable. Many long-time backyard birders may learn little since the book is aimed at the novice. It would be advisable to examine the book prior to purchase. ed.

Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges -- Laura and William Riley -- Anchor Press, Doubleday, Garden City, N. Y. -- 653 p., 27 color photographs and 181 maps -- 1979 -- \$14.95.

No other guide has attempted complete coverage of the nearly 400 National Wildlife Refuges in the U. S. Maps on the endpapers locate 325 of the refuges. The arrangement is by regions with each account introduced with a map of the state locating the refuge. The individual accounts give the primary reason for establishment, size, period open to the public, general note of wildlife to be expected, directions for reaching the refuge, best season, nearby towns with motels, weather notes, clothing suggestions, nearby points of interest and mailing address. Most refuges have bird lists which can be requested in advance of a visit or picked up at headquarters. Refuges are listed under the state where the headquarters is located so two of Iowa's four refuges, Upper Mississippi and Mark Twain, are under other state names, both outside the northcentral region.

Let us look at the information on DeSoto. The highlight is the goose concentration, especially in the fall. The occurrence of Ross' Goose is not mentioned, a notable shortcoming for the avid birder. They are not mentioned for Squaw Creek Refuge in Missouri either. Except for lack of mention of some rare and unique birds searched for by avid birders, the accounts are well done. The book would be helpful to traveling birders and combines a great deal of information into one volume. ed.

Carving Realistic Birds -- H. D. Green and **Audubon's Birds in Color for Decoupage** -- Eleanor H. Rawlings -- Dover Publications, New York -- 75 p., 3 color and 74 black-and-white photographs and 22 diagrams; 56 p., 37 color illustrations respectively -- both 1977, paperbound, \$3.00 and \$2.50 respectively.

These two books will be of interest to the craftsperson interested in working with birds as subjects. The carving book is a step-by-step manual which starts with a description of the tools needed and their uses. The diagrams carefully lay out the making of a bench stop, specific parts of the carving such as feet, head, wing and tail and the patterns for individual species. The many types of wood available are detailed. The base for the carving is discussed as is painting. It seems a very complete and well illustrated work.

The decoupage book contains 37 well reproduced Audubons either 8' x 10' or 5' x 8' in size. They are printed on only one side of reasonably thin paper. The book includes eight pages of instructions for decoupage covering sealing, cutting, wood preparation, painting in a background, gluing, varnishing, sanding and special tips for decoupage under glass. Many common species are included as well as some rare birds. A source of supplies is also presented. ed.

Domestic Descendants -- Charles Osborne, editor -- Time-Life Books, Inc., 777 Duke St., Alexandria, Va. -- 128 p., many color plates -- 1979 -- \$8.95.

Another volume, the twenty-first, in this fine series and one which covers some birds (twelve pages). The birds include chickens, turkeys, waterfowl, pigeons and caged birds. One of the interesting bits of information in this volume tells us that Louis XIV of France once attended a concert given by 100 canaries, bullfinches and starlings. ed.

To a Young Bird Artist -- George M. Sutton -- U. of Oklahoma Press, Norman -- 147 p., 4 color plates -- 1979 -- \$9.95.

This book is composed of a series of letters from Louis Agassiz Fuertes written between 1915 and 1927. Sutton seems to feel he owes much of his success to Fuertes who took time from a busy career to aid and inspire a young artist. Some of the material is very practical, some is inspirational, the combination becomes delightful reading. ed.

A Manual for Bird Watching in the Americas -- Donald J. Heintzelman -- Universe Books, 381 Park Ave., New York -- 255 p., 16 color and 141 black-and-white plates, 4 maps -- 1979 -- \$17.95.

This volume is another in the recent flood of books covering details not usually included in field guides. It covers equipment, field guides, references, check-lists, rare bird alerts (very incomplete listing), state organizations (incomplete), tips for watching particular families, special counts and bird watching in special places. The latter section shows a strong personal influence of the author. The many photographs add chiefly to the cost, especially those in color. It would be advisable to examine this book prior to purchase. ed.

Ding - The Life of Jay Norwood Darling -- David L. Lendt -- Iowa State University Press, Ames -- 202 p., 88 cartoons, drawings and photographs -- 1979 -- \$10.95.

While he was never an I.O.U. member, Ding Darling made a significant contribution to conservation. Born in Michigan he became a nationally esteemed cartoonist for the *Des Moines Register* with over 100 papers utilizing his syndicated work. His brief stint as chief of the Biological Survey in Washington and his role in the formation of the National Wildlife Federation were but two of his environmental roles. He frequently used cartoons to fight conservation battles. Every Iowa conservationist can be proud of his accomplishments which are accurately chronicled in this biography. ed.

The Tidemarch Guide -- Mervin F. Roberts -- E. P. Dutton, New York -- 240 p., many line drawings -- 1979 -- paperbound, \$7.95.

This little book would provide much insight as well as specific biological data on tidemarches and their inhabitants. Birds rate 34 pages with rails, hawks, vultures, gulls, willet, coot, waterfowl, herons, wrens, blackbirds, sparrows and terns covered. For a midwesterner it would prove a useful introduction to an intriguing eastern habitat. ed.

More About Birdwatchers -- Gerry Bennett -- Published by the author, R. R. No. 2, Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada -- 168 p., -- 1978 -- paperbound, \$4.50.

A year ago (I.B.L. Vol. 48 p. 104) we reviewed Gerry Bennett's first book of birding incidents. This latest volume is more of the same with true anecdotes interspersed with some tall tales. It is a "just for fun" book and would make a good Christmas gift for a birder. ed.

Birds in the Wild 1980 -- Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York -- 112 p., 53 color photographs, a weekly calendar -- \$5.95.

This attractive weekly calendar is illustrated by 53 beautiful color photographs. The calendar is about 8" x 5 1/4" and each species is identified and some information is included regarding its habitat preference and range. It would also make a welcome gift for any birder. ed.

Greenshanks -- Desmond and Maimie Nesthersole-Thompson -- Buteo Books, P. O. Box 481, Vermillion, S. D., 57069 -- 275 p., 4 color plates, many drawings, photographs and sonograms -- 1979 -- \$27.50.

The Greenshank is the European counterpart of our Greater Yellow-legs. Desmond Nesthersole-Thompson wrote an earlier book on this species nearly thirty years ago and has worked on these birds since 1932. This monograph, as one comes to expect from British work, is detailed yet written with a freshness often lacking in technical texts. All facets of the birds life history are thoroughly covered. The author challenges North American ornithologists to add to our meager knowledge of the Greater Yellow-legs. No collection of monographs can be complete without Greenshanks. ed.

The Peregrine Falcon in Greenland -- James T. Harris -- University of Missouri Press, Columbia -- 255 p., one map, 38 photographs -- 1979 -- \$15.95.

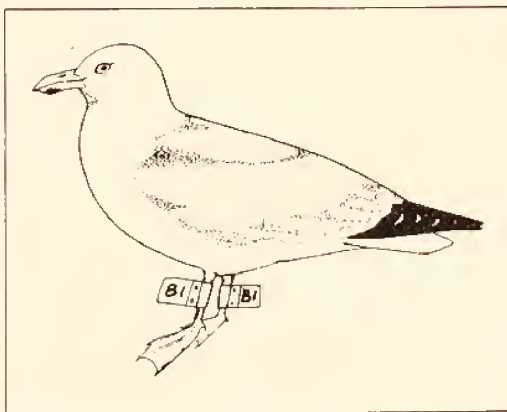
In contrast to a very long term study such as **Greenshanks** details this book is based on one summer's research. The author describes the search for Peregrine eyries and carefully examines the fate of one falcon family. He also develops his feeling toward the species and the individual falcons presenting a keen insight into the value of an endangered animal. This then is lighter reading than **Greenshanks** and not at all a reference type book. Judging by title alone it would be hard to tell what the scope of either book comprises. This book is especially recommended for high school and college libraries. ed.

Ornamental Waterfowl -- A. A. Johnson and W. H. Payn -- Saiga Publishing Co., Ltd, Hindhead, Surrey, England -- 32 color and 23 black-and-white plates, many line drawings -- 1979 -- \$5.00.

Some peoples' interest in birds is directed entirely toward wild populations. Others wish to raise birds and waterfowl are often popular choices. This book is a practical guide which will serve the beginner as well as anyone with experience who might wish to enlarge their collection. The development of an ornamental pond for display is also covered. ed.

Notes

Great Lakes Herring Gulls have been marked with numbered and lettered green, orange, blue or pink leg ribbon - one on each leg. If you see any Herring Gulls so marked, please note number, letter and color of each ribbon and date and place of sighting. Contact Dr. D. V. Chip Weseloh or Mr. Pierre Mineau, Canadian Wildlife Service, Box 5050, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, L7R 4A6. Tel. (416) 637-4264.



Pay your dues promptly -- Enclosed with this issue of **I.B.L.** is an envelope for the payment of 1980 dues. Your prompt remittance will help the **I.O.U.** ed.

Birding Areas of Iowa -- Our new book is being printed and should be ready by December 1. The pre-publication special price of \$3.50, postage paid will expire on December 31, 1979. In 1980 the price will be \$4.50 plus postage. Order from the Librarian, Mrs. Pat Layton, 1560 Linmar Dr., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404. ed.

Birds of Iowa Project - A committee of **I.O.U.** members has begun the project of writing a new **Birds of Iowa**. Patterned generally after the recent **Birds of South Dakota** (**IBL** Vol. 48 p. 148) in format it is expected to be several years before publication. The committee consists of Woodward H. Brown, Jim Dinsmore, Tom Kent, Darwin Koenig, Peter Petersen and Dean Roosa. Each committee member will prepare accounts of 40 to 60 species and the other committee members as well as other **I.O.U.** members will provide critical comment. The status of the species will be essentially based on data from 1960 to the present. Any observations of the more uncommon species, interesting banding data and nesting data which has not appeared in print would be helpful and if you have useful data please contact one of the committee members. ed.

Christmas Bird Counts 1979-80 -- The Christmas Count period for Iowa will be Dec. 15 through Jan. 1 this year. Compilers of last years counts will find their form and instructions in this issue. These instructions **must be followed completely** and all forms must be submitted by Jan. 15, 1980 and **must be typed**. Those wishing to begin new counts should contact the editor for these materials. ed.